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REVIEWS

FICTION

A MAID OF JAPAN. By Mrs. Hugh Fraser. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1905. \$1.25.

One is glad to lose himself in the charm of this little idyl of the "Sunset Kingdom." The love story is tender and fanciful and Himé, the shell-gatherer in her poetic setting and simple purity is akin to Andersen's little mermaid who became mortal for love of a human being. The author through long residence and interest in Japan has knowledge to give generously for the necessary practical setting of her story, and the portrayals are realistically done. We regret, however, that it has seemed to her good to make her young Japanese professor, a Princeton graduate, use a form of English which we are quite sure no reputable American student employs so extensively, although he may have such an acquaintance.

LOSERS' LUCK. Being the Questionable Enterprises of a Yachtsman, a Princess, and Certain Filibusters in Central America. By Charles Tenney Jackson. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1905. \$1.50.

The author plunges us at once *in medias res*, and it cannot be positively asserted that it is at any point in the book the reader's good fortune to find himself sufficiently clear of hurrying events to grasp intelligently the situation. However that may be, there is cause for confusion. A young westerner goes aboard his yacht in San Francisco with some friends to look it over preparatory to sailing the following morning to Tahiti. As he gets aboard, the consul from Gautemala and a Lieutenant of the United States Army arrive with a search warrant, and the boat is found to be loaded with guns and ammunition. Before the paralysing effect of this can be shaken off, the Gautemalan is thrown overboard and the yacht pulls out under full steam. The owner's party is a curiously composite body consisting of a professor, the owner himself who the author leads us to suppose can not be classified, and a curious half-simple, half-intelligent follower of his, Danny. These men discover themselves prison-